

Along with the loss of trees and their carbon sequestration potential I'm concerned about the impact on wildlife corridors and setting the precedent of deforestation for solar. I've been told that this will look more like a hopscotch of cutting, not one big 1,000 acre of clear cut but have not seen any renderings and they have not submitted their special use permit yet. But if all goes according to their plan they could start cutting this winter and leveling the site net spring.

We have talked with them about "offsetting" their impact through land protection or tree planting elsewhere. Not sure if that will go anywhere.

Looping Brian in because he's my township neighbor and has been to the same meetings as me.

--Lisha

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**From:** Smalligan, Mike (DNR) <[SmalliganM@michigan.gov](mailto:SmalliganM@michigan.gov)>  
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**Cc:** Tangora, Susan (DNR) <[TANGORAS@michigan.gov](mailto:TANGORAS@michigan.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: GHG inventory

Some deforestation data for you...

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**Subject:** FW: GHG inventory

Hey Jacob and Daniel,

As the "tree guys" in the MI Climate Corps, please be thinking about and talking about the importance of forests with your peers and staff at EGLE. I skimmed over the new Priority Climate Action Plan yesterday (attached) and was disappointed by how little it said about forests. While it is essential to lower GHG emissions, our 20 million acres of forests sequester 11% of Michigan's total GHG emissions. That is a significant carbon sink that we should manage better to increase the sink capacity from urban and rural forests. Here are a few key points to share widely, and you may want to emphasize the importance of the urban forest for sequestration and environmental justice.

1. Michigan's 20 million acres of forest sequester 11% of 2019 GHG emissions (see Appendix Table 2 on page A-2)
2. Urban forests are a significant sink too sequestering around 3.6 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e (data from Table 213 in USFSW state tables attached)
3. Michigan's forests are young (median age 65 – see Forests of MI attached) and we should protect and manage rural and urban forests to increase sequestration.
4. Climate change could lower forest resilience and reduce the capacity for sequestering more carbon in our forests
5. Michigan has net zero deforestation right now but the clean energy laws might have unintended consequences increasing deforestation clearing forests for solar.

Right now Michigan is net zero on deforestation losing 46,119 acres of forest to urban sprawl and gaining 48,188 acres of forest, likely from abandoned agriculture. These are 2020 data and I am very worried that the clean energy bills demanding tons of solar will greatly increase deforestation in Michigan in the next 5 years. I am hearing stories about 600-acre, 1,000-acre and 2,000-acre deforestation events for solar near Gaylord and Marquette.

You might want to read up on 30x30 as that concept of protecting 30% of land and water by 2030 is the lead on forests in the MI Healthy Climate Plan.



State	Forest Area (ac)	Percent Public	Percent Private	Deforestation (gross) ac	Percent Total Deforestation	Conversion TO Forest ac	Deforestation (net) ac	Percent Net Deforestation
Michigan	20,116,910	38%	62%	46,119	0.2%	48,188	-2,069	0.0%
Wisconsin	16,943,543	30%	70%	63,291	0.4%	48,492	14,799	0.1%
Texas (east only)	12,005,338	10%	90%	75,699	0.6%	46,826	28,873	0.2%

Thanks,  
Mike

Cell: 517-449-5666  
Keep the paperwork simple and the woods beautiful.

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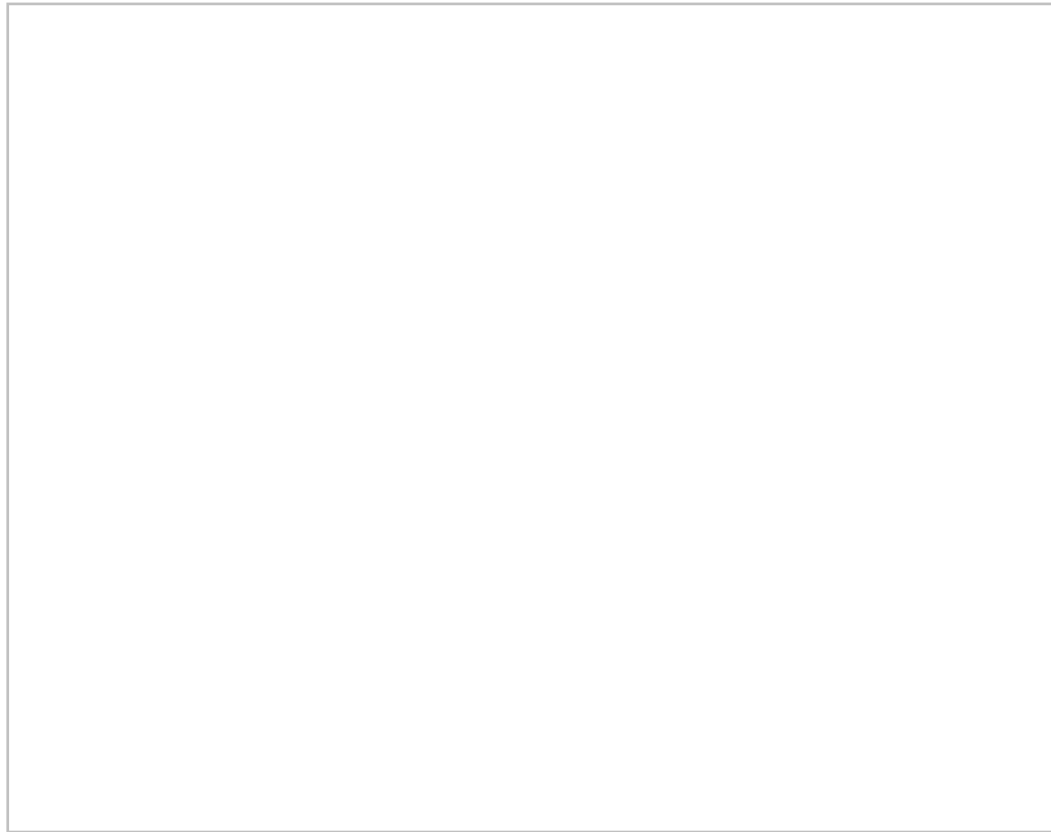
**From:** Smalligan, Mike (DNR)  
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**Subject:** RE: GHG inventory

Thanks Sarah,

Sweet GHG inventory report! Thanks for your work on that. What are your data sources for LULUCF? Is it the attached inventory by states that USFS submits to EPA (2018 data)?

You report that Michigan's 20 million acres of forest sequester a gross 11% of 2019 emissions (Appendix Table 2), and I'd love to see that number increase (instead of the 3% decrease from 2005 in your report). Michigan's relatively young forests are expanding in area and volume so with good management and protection from LUC we should be able to increase our forest sink.

Is EGLE concerned about the new clean energy laws incentivizing and increasing LUC from forests to solar panels? We have net zero deforestation now (see attached USFS data), but with solar paying \$1,000 per acre annually for 40 years, I am hearing anecdotes of several 1,000 and 2,000-acre deforestation events on private and corporate land from forest to solar panels. That will release 100 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per acre from biomass alone as a starting point before the solar gets installed, so not very "green" from a forestry perspective. Any increase in LUC, even for cleaner energy, will hinder Michigan's forests from being a larger sink.



Thanks,  
Mike

Cell: 517-449-5666  
Keep the paperwork simple and the woods beautiful.

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**From:** Hutchinson, Sarah (EGLE-Contractor) <[HutchinsonS5@michigan.gov](mailto:HutchinsonS5@michigan.gov)>  
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**Subject:** RE: GHG inventory

Hi Mike,

So glad you enjoyed it! Yes, this information can be found in [Michigan's Priority Climate Action Plan](#).

For forestry (or LULUCF, as it's referred to in the report), the amount of carbon sequestered decreased from 19.63 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2005 to 18.96 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019. Additionally from our preliminary analysis, it seems that the increase in the agriculture sector is coming from an increase in methane and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, though we haven't done a thorough investigation related to potential causation. Due to time constraints surrounding the initial inventory, we primarily focused on MI's highest emitting sectors (electricity, buildings, and transportation) – now that we have some more time, we're working on an updated inventory that provides the same level of detail for the remaining sectors of waste, LULUCF, and agriculture.

Let me know if you have any additional questions, and I'm happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

Thanks,  
Sarah

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**From:** Smalligan, Mike (DNR) <[SmalliganM@michigan.gov](mailto:SmalliganM@michigan.gov)>  
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